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REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

SESSION--JANUARY, 1867.

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REPORT.

ST. VINCENT'S ORPHAN BOYS' HOME, 371 BIENVILLE STREET.

This Home has been founded recently; the exigency of the late war was the incentive which prompted the benevolence of its originators. The boys of our city have grown up without restraint—some orphans and many half orphans. These boys principally are abandoned; many of them were news-boys, and nothing so degenerates the mind, morally and physically, as boys having no parental restraint. Yet, a desire on their part to earn a subsistence. The mixed character of their associations lead them to every element of viciousness; consequently the establishment of this Home.

There are now (54) fifty-four boys in this asylum—their buildings have been recently purchased, and are very suitable and convenient—the discipline is wholesome, and the facilities for their education is properly attended to.

This institution we recommend to your benovolent consideration. Its officers are D. P. Scanlan, President, P. G. Mohan, Treasurer.

HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, BIENVILLE STREET, CORNER BROAD.

This institution has repeatedly been called to the attention of the General Assembly. Formerly they occupied the buildings on Magazine street, but now have moved permanently to their new asylum.

This institution is specially to reclaim profligates and abandoned females, old and young. There are about twenty-five sisters in charge of this asylum; their duties are of a self abnegating character, and much good has been achieved.

Your Committee would remark in connection with this asylum, that to elevate the abandoned female to a sense of duty to herself and her God, is a work of benevolence and charity which the mind duly appreciates and sympathises. They have scarcely any source of support except from the Legislature, and by their taking in sewing and washing.

This institution is under the management of Sister Mary Agnes, and has (125) one hundred and twenty-five inmates.

CHILDREN'S ORPHANS' HOME, 346 CHARTRES STREET.

This institution is praiseworthy and commends itself to the kind paternity of the State.

This institution is for orphans and half orphans. When your Committee visited the institution, they were peculiarly gratified at the neat and cleanliness of the children. The buildings of this institution are leased, and are in somewhat of a dilapidated condition; yet the extreme cleanliness throughout was observable.

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The school, under the tuition of Mr. and Mrs. Willis, was an interesting scene.

This institution is under the management of Mrs. Lacy President; Mrs. Randall, Secretary, There are fifty-nine orphans in this asylum—would recommend this asylum to your consideration.

ST. MARY'S ORPHAN BOYS' ASYLUM, MOREAU STREET.

There are three hundred and eighty orphans in this Asylum, seventy-one of which are under the age of seven years.

The buildings are roomy, with every facility of play grounds, and is a pattern of neatness. When your Committee visited this Asylum, Father Sheil was unwell, but to his administration your Committee cannot but attribute the pleasure they had, and sufficient to call forth their thanks to the great Giver of "every good and perfect gift," that the orphans are so cared for.

CAMP STREET FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This Asylum is now under charge of Sister Mary Margaret. There are at present two hundred and ninety orphans in this institution. The cleanliness, and quiet system of order is highly commendable, and your Committee have to express their pleasurable satisfaction in its order, decorum and fiscal arrangements.

This institution, it will be remembered, for many years was nurtured by the beloved Sister Regis and Sister Margeret Haughery, and to them much is due for the prosperity of this Asylum.

ST. VINCENT'S INFANT ASYLUM, CORNER MAGAZINE AND RACE STREETS.

This Asylum has been in existence for many years; it is under the management of Sister Mary Agnes.

There are at present one hundred and twenty-one infants under charge; they are principally foundlings and illegitimate. At any time human frailty calls commiseration, but no institution brings to the heart the sacred sympathies of God's benevolence to man's humanity than this institution.

Their buildings are comfortable and substantial; the arrangements and cleanliness are commendable.

ST. ELIZABETH'S ASYLUM, MAGAZINE STREET.

This Asylum is under the management of Sister Angelica, and is certainly a pattern of industry and neatness, and highly commendable and beneficial.

There are one hundred and forty orphans, and eighteen Sisters having charge of the various departments.

WIDOWS' HOME; OR ST. ANN ASYLUM, PRYTANIA NEAR FELICITY STREETS.

This Asylum has been a recipient of many kind acts on the part of our estimable fellow-citizen, Dr. W. N. Mercer, who benefacted the ground and other valuable donations for its sustenance.

Mrs. Hyde is its worthy President, Mrs. Sterling, Secretary, and Mrs. Wilder, Matron.

There are at present only twenty aged females and ten children at this Home.

The buildings are commodious and of substantial and modern structure, and kept in a manner commendable; and yet your Committee think that the building is altogether too large for its purposes, there being so much capacity unoccupied, which might be devoted to other coincident useful charities.

ST. JOSEPH BOYS' AND GIRLS' ASYLUM, COR. JOSEPHINE AND LAUREL STREETS.

This Asylum has two hundred and one orphans, boys and girls; it is German and English. All classes irrespective are received in this Asylum.

In this Asylum the children, like the other institutions, receive a competent education for the duties of life; and, similar to the St. Elizabeth Asylum, pursue industrial pursuits which help largely in the support of the institution. The fiscal administration of this Asylum is worthy of commendation.

JEWISH ORPHANS' HOME AND INDIGENT, JACKSON STREET.

This institution is principally supported by the persuasion, and reflects great credit on their benevolence and humanity.

The buildings are substantial, comfortable and airy. There are fifty-two inmates, and no sickness whatever. This institution is conducted quietly and with great discrimination.

Geo. Jonas, Esq., is the president, and to his watchful care much of the beneficent results of this institution is due.

ORPHANS' HOME ASYLUM, CORNER SEVENTH AND CONSTANCE STREETS.

This Asylum is in excellent order, cleanliness and discipline. There are eighty-five children in this Asylum; no sickness.

Miss Dyas, is President, and Mrs. Golding, Matron. The grounds and buildings are commodious and substantial; the fiscal arrangements and schools receive the commendation of your Committee. This Asylum needs your paternal appropriation. They, like many other of our Asylums, receive no resources except by voluntary donations, but principally from City and State.

Miss Dyas, the worthy President, by her labor of love, and the condition of the Asylum, receives the congratulation of your Committee, and present their claims to your consideration.

LOUISIANA RETREAT FOR THE INSANE, NAPOLEON AVE. AND MAGAZINE STREET.

This institution is situated in a beautiful and retired spot of the parish of Jefferson. It is under the management of Sisters of Charity, and presided over by Sister Sevirena. There are thirty-three inmates in this Asylum, and your Committee cannot but testify to its management and treatment, as being mild and of beneficial effect.

Your Committee recommend this institution to your favorable consideration.

POOR OR ALMS HOUSE, TCHOUPITOULAS AND SECOND STREETS.

This institution was organized by Mrs. Richardson, and still is managed by her with the help of a matron. Mrs. Richardson deserves the thanks of the Assembly for the assiduity and energy in carrying out this arduous labor of benevolence.

There are at present twenty-three females, aged and indigent, and seventeen children, and has accomplished a great deal of good. The building on which this Almshouse is located, is leased property and very dilapidated, and consider Mrs. Richardson has commenced and carried so far the incipiency of an Almshouse or Poorhouse.

And your Committee believing such an institution is highly required, would hereby suggest to the Common Council of the city of New Orleans the necessity of establishing a parish almshouse, as not only a duty of benevolence, but economy in the support of pauperism in the parish of Orleans; and would suggest each parish in the State to take this subject into serious consideration. This Institution is favorably recommended as an auxiliary.

ASYLUM OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ON LOVE AND DESIREE STREETS, THIRD DISTRICT.

Has seventy orphan children. This institution is notable for its cleanliness and good administration.

The buildings of this Asylum are unpretending, yet substantial; well ventilated, and no sickness. This institution your Committee present to your careful benefaction.

ASYLUM FOR INDIGENT WIDOWS AND THEIR CHILDREN, PAULINE STREET, BETWEEN GIROD AND ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

This institution has been but recently established by Father Turgis, in the outskirts of the city, near McCarty Square, Third District. There are at present six families in this Asylum, and many more applying for admission. The grounds are newly fenced, and framed buildings of one story recently constructed.

Your Committee, in visiting this institution, were struck with its simplicity, the true charity of its purpose, and were particularly gratified. This institution is one which your Committee could not but commend.

INDIGENT SCHOOL FOR COLORED ORPHANS, GREATMEN STREET, THIRD DISTRICT.

This school is presided over by Francois Bertrand. The property on which the school room is located was donated by Madame Bernard Convent, and has at present a rental of $36 per month.

There are about 280 children in this orphan school, and Mr. Armand Lanusse its preceptor. All of them are descendants of the original "free" colored population of the city.

This institution has been in existence for many years. It has been principally sustained by voluntary contributions, and appropriations from the State previous to the war.

About one-half of the pupils pay one dollar per month tuition fees; the other half are indigent.

Your Committee present this institution to your consideration.

Your Committee, in the performance of their duties, have been much gratified in their personal visits and inspections of the charitable institutions of the State, to witness the industry of the orphans, their healthful condition and cleanliness. It is a remarkable fact that throughout the whole of the asylums we found only three children sick—that was from colds, and they were convalescent.

There is a beauty in Christian benevolence, or the benevolence of humanity—call it what you please—in the charitable institutions of this State, that at any time will call forth the commiseration of the heart, returning thanks to the great God, who is the giver of every good and every perfect gift; and it would be well that all would visit those institutions of the State. Human frailties, human degeneracy, would at once teach a lesson to the good as well as to the hard-hearted; and unless the soul be callous to every emotion of friendship, love and charity, cannot but receive an "indelible impression." And again, to witness the tender, careful anxiety, the wise discrimination and solicitude by the officers, matrons and sisters of the various asylums for the orphans committed to their charge, it would draw emotions of thanksgiving from the most callous and obdurate heart.

These institutions are not only a blessing to our State, but one of the most important features in the benevolent character of the citizens of the city of New Orleans and State of Louisiana.

S. O. SCRUGGS,
Chairman Senate Committee.
THOMAS MURRAY,
Chairman House Committee.

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